



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX
100 CALIFORNIA STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94111

OCT 18 1976

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS

In accordance with the procedures for the preparation of environmental impact statements, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed Agency action below:

RECEIVED

Official Project Name: San Mateo County Mid-Coastside
Facilities Consolidation

OCT 18 1976

Project No. C-06-1022

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

State Clearinghouse No. 75090824

Applicant: Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside

Project Location: The communities of Montara and
Granada and the City of Half
Moon Bay, San Mateo County,
California

Estimated Federal Financial Share: \$3,234,750

Estimated State Financial Share: \$539,125

Estimated Local Financial Share: \$1,878,125

The Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside (S.A.M.) is a joint powers agency composed of three sanitary agencies in the Mid-Coastside of San Mateo County, California, approximately thirty miles south of San Francisco.

Wastewater treatment and disposal functions are presently carried out by three sewage agencies within the Mid-Coastside service area, the City of Half Moon Bay, the Granada Sanitary District, and the Montara Sanitary District. Granada's treatment facility does not meet Federal secondary treatment standards and both Granada and Montara discharge sewage effluent near a State designated area of special biological significance on the Pacific coastline. Both Montara and Granada have been issued cease and desist orders by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The City of Half Moon Bay treatment facility meets Federal secondary treatment standards but is an interim facility with numerous operational problems.

The proposed project will consolidate the treatment and disposal facilities for the three communities by the construction of seven miles of sewage interceptor pipeline, two sewage pump stations, and a new activated sludge treatment facility at the site of the present City of Half Moon Bay plant. The site of the ocean outfall will be selected upon completion of oceanographic investigations in December 1976. A separate environmental appraisal will be made for the disposal portion of the project. The proposed capacity of the treatment facility is 2 MGD; however, due to State capacity funding limitations, the grant eligible capacity is 1.3 MGD. REVISION 13038

Our environmental review indicates the principal primary impacts of the project implementation to be noise, disturbance of wildlife, dust, traffic disruption, short term odors from pump stations and the treatment facility, and the potential for disturbance of archaeological sites. To prevent disturbance of archaeological sites the recommendations from a previously conducted archaeological survey will be implemented during design and construction activities. The overriding primary impact of project implementation will be an improvement in the treatment and disposal of Mid-Coastside wastewater with a resultant reduction of stress on the ecosystem of the near shore receiving waters of the Pacific Ocean. REVISION 13038

Secondary impacts of project implementation are potential interference with efforts to attain and maintain air quality standards and potential conversion of some prime agricultural land to residential use. The capacity of this project can accommodate an ultimate population of 26,000 people which represents an approximate doubling of the present population. The air pollution impact will be mitigated by required commitments on the part of the grantees to cooperate in increasing the mass transit availability in the Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside service area and to cooperate in the development and implementation of an Air Quality Maintenance Plan for the San Francisco Bay Area Air Quality Maintenance Area. The impacts of conversion of land from agricultural use to residential use will be mitigated by adherence to the land use policy developed by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). These mitigation measures will be implemented by the grantee in the form of commitments to use 0.3 MGD of the 2 MGD plant capacity only for recreational (non-residential) use, to limit the service area boundaries to those recommended by ABAG, and to request the San Mateo County Local Agency Formation Commission to undertake a sphere of influence and

urban service area boundary study of the Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside. These actions will reduce the residential population that can be served by the project to approximately 22,000 people which generally conforms with the Mid-Coastside population growth rate recommended by ABAG.

EPA came to the conclusions described above after reviewing the project report, environmental impact assessment and public hearing summary prepared by the applicant. In addition, EPA reviewed comments received from the involved State and Federal agencies.

As stated above, the review process did not indicate significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed project. Consequently, EPA has made the preliminary decision not to prepare an environmental impact statement.

An environmental impact appraisal, which summarizes the conclusions of the EPA review, is on file with the other project materials and available for public scrutiny at the above EPA office. Additionally, copies of the environmental impact appraisal may be obtained at cost by contacting that office.

Comments on this decision may be submitted for consideration by EPA within 15 working days from the date of this Notice. No administrative action will be taken by EPA on the above project prior to the expiration of this period.

Shirley M. Prindiville

for Paul De Falco, Jr.
Regional Administrator

